Increase in the Price of Rubber

663. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI :
KUMARI ALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheter Government propose to increase the prices of natural rubber ;

(b) wheter it is proposed by Govt. to fix the administered prices of rubber during the July-August each year ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government has been announcing revision in the Bench Mark Price of natural rubber (RMA- 4 grade) based on the cost study reports of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance from time to time. The study takes into account the increases that have taken place in the cost of various inputs for production of natural rubber. The present Bench Mark Price of Rs. 21,450 per metric tonne was fixed on 1st January, 1991 on the basis of the recommendations of the Cost Accounts Branch.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to fix administered prices of rubber during July-August each year. However, due to reported increases in various inputs, a fresh cost study has recently been carried out and the same is being examined by Government.

Export of Leather Products

664. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the value of export of leather products during the last five years ;

(b) what has been the gap between the demand and availability of finished leather during the above period ;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to develop technology required for this sector ; and

(d) what are the details of the scheme regarding manpower development for leather industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The value of export of leather products (footwears, footwear components, garments and other leather goods excluding finished leather) during the last five years has been as follows :

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Exports
1987-88	686.29
1988-89	913.49
1989-90	1315.44
1990-91	1808.22
1991-92	2460.00 (Provisional)

(*Source* : Council for Leather Exports)

(b) No reliable data on demand and availability of finished leather is available prior to the period 1990-91. However, in the context of preparation of 8th Five Year Plan, the Working Group on Leather and Leather Goods Industries had estimated the demand and availability of finished leather as under :

(in Million SFT)

Year	Requirement	Availability	Deficit
1990-91	1445	1375	70
1994-95	1803	1593	210

(*Source* : Report of the Working Group on Leather and Leather Goods Industries for the Eigth Five Year Plan).